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**PATENT** 

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph Phillip Bigus et al.

Art Unit: Unknown Examiner: Unknown

Serial No.: FILED HEREWITH Filed:

October 18, 1999

Atty. Docket No.: IBM/02B

IBM/02B

For:

INTELLIGENT AGENT WITH NEGOTIATION CAPABILITY AND METHOD

OF NEGOTIATION THEREWITH,

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents** Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

## **Amendments**

## In the Specification

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, lines 5-18, and substitute therefor the following

paragraph:

--This application is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No.

08/821,935, filed on March 21, 1997 by Bigus et al., entitled "INTELLIGENT

AGENT WITH NEGOTIATION CAPABILITY ÁND METHOD OF

NEGOTIATION THEREWITH." This application is also related to the following

U.S. Patent Applications, all of which were filed by Bigus et al.: U.S. Serial No.

08/822,119 filed on March 21, 1997 and entitled "APPARATUS AND METHOD

FOR COMMUNICATING BÉTWEEN AN INTELLIGENT AGENT AND

CLIENT COMPUTER PROCESS USING DISGUISED MESSAGES," U.S.

Serial No. 08/826,107 filed on March 21, 1997 and entitled "APPARATUS AND

METHOD FOR OPTIMIZING THE PERFORMANCE OF COMPUTER

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